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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4369
INFO RHMFISS/CDR USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL//SCJ2//
RULGPIA/USCOMSOLANT

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 001049

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, I/GWHA, WHA, WHA/PDA, WHA/BSC,
WHA/EPSC
CDR USSOCOM FOR J-2 IAD/LAMA

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION; G-20 SUMMIT; ARGENTINE PRESIDENT KIRCHNER
TRIP TO NEW YORK; US-ARGENTINE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP; UN GENERAL
ASSEMBLY; 09/21/09; BUENOS AIRES

1. SUMMARY STATEMENT

Weekend international stories are related to Argentina's attendance at the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh; expectations over Argentine President Cristina Kirchner's trip to New York; the current status of the US-Argentine bilateral relationship; as well as the UN General Assembly in New York.

2. OPINION PIECES AND EDITORIALS

- "Argentine redefines its role at the G20 Summit"

Daily-of-record "La Nacion's" economic columnist Emilia Subiza writes (09/20), "The crisis engendered by the downfall of Lehman Brothers brought consequences that surpass the economic ones. Some new world power engineering has been delineated since then, and Argentina has the opportunity to have a position of its own at the upcoming G20 Summit.

"Jorge Castro, an expert in foreign policy issues, said: 'The G20 is not an event but a process from which a new world governance platform will emerge. Some will be left inside it while others will be left out. The financial crisis and recession have marked the end of the US hegemony, which prevailed since the implosion of the Soviet Union in 1991.'

"... Felix Pena, the head of the Institute for International Trade at Fundacion Standard Bank, believes the G20 is going through some thorough review - 'Our country could play a role by contributing ideas...'

"Pena believes that controlling and soothing the impact of the crisis and putting the effect of the new world power distribution on a safe track will be the hot issues of this encounter. He pointed out that Argentina's challenge is to remain attending international fora and set a precedent as the spokesperson of the region.

"The leaders of the G20 country-members have the challenge of making progress with the commitments made last April in London...

"Analysts agree that emerging countries (among them Argentina) could well contribute their experience in financial regulation...

"In last Monday's speech, US President Barack Obama reiterated his purpose of reorganizing the financial regulation system and he urged Capitol Hill to approve the reform as soon as possible...

"Another expectation about the region is focused on the change in the IMF and WB leadership."

- "Cristina agrees to create an IMF exclusively for poor countries"

Ana Baron, on special assignment in New York for leading "Clarín,"

writes (09/21), "Among US economists Nobel Award Joseph Stiglitz is one of the few allies of President Cristina Kirchner. During their one-and-a-half hour meeting at Four Seasons Hotel in New York, both of them agreed to criticize the IMF and they both said they favor the eventual creation of a parallel institution aimed at attending to the problems of emerging countries such as Argentina.

"Stiglitz reinforced his anti-IMF stance and he praised Argentina's performance during the crisis sparked by the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers Bank in New York, which afterwards impacted all over the world...

"... Furthermore, Stiglitz believes that the recovery of the US economy will be slow while that of the Asian countries will be much faster. This would keep high the prices of Argentine exports.

"What the prestigious economist did not say is how to solve the Argentine Government's need for financing in the short and medium term. Neither did he say how to reach a deal over the country's Paris Club debt without having to resort to the IMF, a topic in which Cristina Kirchner is much interested. Stiglitz did not tackle either the INDEC issue, which raises concern among academics, businessmen and bankers with interests in our country.

"Cristina Kirchner does not want to speak about these issues...

"From the very beginning, Argentina has defended four points at the G20 summit - the IMF reform, the regulation of the world financial system, the struggle against tax havens and the IDB capitalization, which has not taken place yet."

- "A crisis that is more profound than what it seems"

Leading "Clarín's" political analyst Eduardo van der Kooy opines (09/20), "... One can easily observe that Argentina is heading for a crisis in which, perhaps for the first time, politics is leading the economy...

"The media bill cleared by the Lower House largely meant a summary of the crisis. Essential issues for any nation such as freedom of expression, the right to private property and judicial guarantees were discussed amid huge improvisation...

"For some days, the world had its eyes on Argentina due to the back and forth moves on the media draft bill..., but this is over. Cristina travelled to New York to attend the UN General Assembly and the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh...

"The Government made two attempts to have the Argentine President hold a bilateral meeting with Barack Obama. Both attempts failed. Not even were they lucky in having a lesser prize - the Argentine diplomacy had asked that the new US Ambassador Vilma Martínez postpone her trip to Buenos Aires for some days to have a meeting with Cristina in New York, but the State Department also denied it. There are some more difficulties - Spain has also avoided top-level contacts.

"Perhaps this isolation, the mistrust with which the world eyes the Kirchners is part of the same political crisis that is falling on the country, although not so loudly."

- "The UN is again in the eyes of the world"

Alberto Armendariz, on special assignment in New York for daily-of-record "La Nación," comments, (09/20) "After several years being the target of criticism that even questioned its relevance, this week the UN will be the focus of the world scenario.

"... After eight years of George W. Bush administration, which dismissed global warming as well as the UN role in the Iraq issue and warned that the UN could turn irrelevant, there is much expectation about Obama's presence. It will be his first UN General Assembly, which will tackle a variety of issues - among them disarmament, non nuclear proliferation and the Middle East peace process...

"... Obama will become the first US president that will lead a UN

session, which will be exclusively devoted to the nuclear issue. The meeting will take place one week before Washington and Tehran start direct negotiations on the latter's controversial enriched uranium program...

"The Iranian leader is expected to be received with strong protest demonstrations of exiles... The eyes will also be placed on Libyan president Khadafy, who was questioned due to his welcoming reception of Abdelbaset al-Megrahi, the terrorist who was convicted over the criminal assault against 1988 Pan Am flight in Lockerbie.

"... There are little chances of a tripartite summit among Obama, Netanyahu and Abbas to re-launch the stalled peace process in the Middle East, which the White House wishes so much. Israelis have not given any sign that they are willing to put a brake on the settlements of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Jerusalem, which is a sine qua non requisite for the Palestinian National Authority to sit at the negotiating table.

"As to Latin Americans, the assembly will be colorful as well as tense - Chavez and Uribe are both expected to talk about their points of disagreement over the US-Colombian military agreement. Chavez will also be criticized over his anti-media policies while Uribe is likely to face uncomfortable questions on his manipulation of democratic institutions and intelligence services."

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